



Litter Picks

Electronic Newsletter

April 2008

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement
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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Litter Picks, a look at litter prevention news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related to litter prevention and awareness. Had a successful clean up event? Recognized companies or citizens for their clean up efforts? Let us know by sending this information to Sheila Barnett at smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov.

Do "No Littering" Signs Reduce Litter?

You've seen the "Do Not Litter" signs along the roads with a posted fine. There are variations on "do not litter" signs too. For example, in the Lake Anna community the signs read; "Welcome to Lake Anna. Please help keep our roadsides, waterways, communities and parks litter free. Virginia's laws will be enforced. Do not litter." As a litter program manager or an Adopt-a-Highway Coordinator, you may have had citizens request "Do Not Litter" signs in their adopted stretches of road.

A colleague recently asked me to get your opinions on "Do not litter" signage. What do the anti-littering signs in your area say? Have you noticed if they have an impact on reducing litter? Please email me at smbarnett@deq.virginia.gov or call me at (804) 698-4055.

Pay it Forward Tour

Thirty-seven students from the University of Minnesota conducted a cleanup in Big Gem Park in **Shenandoah** on March 17, 2008. The students were part of a national group called "Students Today, Leaders Forever." After cleaning up in Shenandoah, the students were headed to Washington, D.C. to do cleanup work along the Potomac River.

Pay it Forward tours are part of the Students Today Leaders Forever (STLF) national student organization. In 2008, STLF is having 20 different tours with 700 participants over a four week period during that time, 80 communities will be served and over 14,100 hours of community service will take place. PIF refers to the tours as voluntourism (volunteering + traveling). Tour participants pay \$425 to cover their lodging, transportation and food.

STLF was started by four college freshmen at the University of Minnesota. It has expanded to high school and middle school students and offers summer camps for high school students.

To learn more about the litter cleanup in Shenandoah, contact Chris Anderson, Environmental Program Manager for **Page County** at canderson@pagecounty.virginia.gov or 540-743-4808.

To learn more about Students Today Leaders Forever and the Pay it Forward Tours, visit the website at www.stlf.net or contact Greg Tehven, Co-executive Director of STLF at greg@stlf.net or (701) 361-7274.

Did you know?

- ✓ The 3rd Annual Potomac River Watershed Trash Summit will be held at the World Bank, Washington, DC June 17, 2008. To register or for more information, go to: http://www.hardbargainfarm.org/trash_initiative/trash_summit.html
- ✓ National Environmental Education week is April 13 – 19, 2008. For more information about Environmental Education week, go to: <http://www.eeweek.org/>. To learn about the environmental programs sponsored by DEQ's Office of Environmental Education, go to: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/education/homepage.html> or contact Ann Regn at amregn@deq.virginia.gov or (804) 698-4442.
- ✓ On March 25, 2008 a report was given at the **Henry County** Board of Supervisors Meeting about the success of the **Assign-a-Highway** program. In February, Henry County used 25 probationers to clean up along the roadways. 260 bags of trash were collected which totaled 5,200 pounds. The County estimates that the value of the work that the probationers did saved the county \$926.35 when calculated by the minimum wage rate of \$5.85/hr.
- ✓ The R-Board of **Stafford County** sponsored "Critters Don't Need Litter" presentations from the Wildlife Center of Virginia. From February 27 – March 7, 2008, 3,700 elementary students saw the presentation. Contact Julie May at (540) 658-4579 or jmay@co.stafford.va.us
- ✓ The **Virginia Council for Litter Prevention and Recycling** will be hosting a litter conference October 22 – 24, 2008 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Fredericksburg. If you are interested in presenting at the conference, please contact Clara Mills at cmills@spotsylvania.va.us or Rosemary Byrne at cleanfairfax1@aol.com
- ✓ **Keep Norfolk Beautiful** has a new page on MySpace! Check out their MySpace page by going to: <http://www.myspace.com/keepnorfolkbeautiful>

Litter Picks Continued

Does your Jurisdiction have a Litter Control Officer?

Bobby Justus, Virginia's **Assign-a-Highway** Program Manager, requests that if your jurisdiction has someone who enforces anti-littering laws that you contact him. Please provide him with the following information:

- ✓ Name (of litter enforcement officer)
- ✓ Job title
- ✓ Address
- ✓ Telephone Number
- ✓ Email Address
- ✓ Full or Part Time?
- ✓ Supervisor Name
- ✓ Supervisor's Title (Sheriff, Police Chief, Board of Supervisors, City Council, etc.)

Bobby Justus' contact information is bjustus_assignahighway@yahoo.com or (276) 628-1600.

SMARxT Disposal Campaign

Recently, trace amounts of chemical compounds from medicines are being discovered in the nation's drinking water. The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and the American Pharmacists Association are encouraging citizens to crush unused medications in a plastic bag and to mix the medicine with an undesirable element to discourage others from taking the medicines out of the bag. Some suggestions include adding sawdust, kitty litter, coffee grounds, etc. For more information, go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website at:

<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2007/r07-050.html>

Deborah DeBiasi, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, can answer questions about disposal of medications too. Her contact information is dldebiasi@deq.virginia.gov or (804) 698-4028.

Cleanup Events:

April

Frederick County Clean Sweep Litter-Thon. Contact Gloria Puffinburger to schedule a cleanup. (540) 665-5643 or gpuffinb@co.frederick.va.us

Keep Henrico Beautiful Month. Contact Megan Brown to schedule a cleanup at (804) 501-4502 or bro77@co.henrico.va.us

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Clean Valley Council's Clean Valley Day. Contact Ann Masters at ann@cleanvalley.org or (540) 345-5523 or visit the website at: www.cleanvalley.org/cleanvalleyday.html

20th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. Ten local Virginia governments have registered for this event with nearly 120 cleanup sites. To see the sites or to register cleanups, go to: http://www.fergusonfoundation.org/trash_initiative/rc_sites.html

Cleanup Events Continued:

April 12

Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River Cleanup and Celebration at "First Spring." Volunteers will meet at the Friends office in **Woodstock** at 8:30 a.m. Contact Leslie Watson, Executive Director of Friends of the North Fork, at (540) 459-8550 or friends@shentel.net or visit the website at www.fnfsr.org

April 19 – 20

Citizens for **Fauquier County** Annual Litter Pickup Project. Contact Mimi Moore at daisyp@blackhawke.net or visit the website at www.citizensforfauquier.org

April 26

Arbor Day Celebration, Clean Up Day AND "Ma-con a Difference Day." - **Ashland**. Help Cleanup Carter and DeJarnette Parks. contact Monica Klisz at kliszfamily@verizon.net or (804) 798-1366. Clean up will begin at 10:00am following the Arbor Day ceremony.

Keep Bristol Beautiful Great American Cleanup, 9 a.m. – Noon at the Bristol Chamber of Commerce. Contact Genette Patton at gpatton@bristolchamber.org or 423-989-4850

Colonial Heights City Clean Up Day (and Adopt-a-Highway. Meet at the Senior Center, 157 Roanoke Avenue. 8 a.m. – noon. To register, go to: www.colonialheights.com/PublicWorksAdoptAHighwayDay.htm or contact Patsy Dixon at (804) 520-9372 or dixonp@colonialheights.com

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Prince George County Spring Cleanup Day Register by calling Wendy Joiner at (804) 733-2646 by April 25 or go to: <http://www.princegeorgeva.org/Index.aspx?page=18&recordid=202&returnURL=%2fIndex.aspx%3fpag%3d80> for additional information.

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Mathews County semi-annual litter and trash pickup along roadways in the county. Contact Rebecca Grow at rebecca.grow@gmail.com or (804) 725-4229.

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